AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A method for modulating activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a polypeptide agent ~~that modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide~~ in an amount sufficient to modulate the activation of an NFkB signaling pathway, wherein said polypeptide agent comprises the extracellular domain of a TRADEα polypeptide, said extracellular domain ~~comprising a TRADEα polypeptide sequence~~ having at least ~~90%~~ 95% sequence identity ~~identical~~ to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, such that activation of an NFkB signaling pathway is modulated.~~

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a soluble form of a TRADEα polypeptide ~~comprising a mature TRADEα polypeptide extracellular domain~~.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble form of the TRADEα polypeptide is a TRADEα-Fc fusion protein.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent consists essentially of ~~a~~ said TRADEα polypeptide extracellular domain.

9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADEα-Fc fusion protein includes the hinge –C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADEα-Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ1, γ2, γ3, ε and α.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADEα and Fc sequences.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADEα polypeptide sequence comprising~~ consists essentially of a sequence at least 95% ~~80%~~ identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 42, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADEα polypeptide sequence comprising~~ comprises ~~a sequence at least 90% identical to~~ amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADEα polypeptide sequence comprising~~ comprises at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide comprising a ~~TRADEα polypeptide~~ sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide comprising a TRADEβ polypeptide sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4~~.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide comprising ~~a TRADEα polypeptide sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of~~ SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4~~.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide consisting of ~~the amino acid sequence of~~ SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4~~.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

53. (Currently amended) A method for modulating NFkB activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a polypeptide agent comprising ~~a~~ the extracellular domain of a TRADEα polypeptide ~~sequence~~, wherein said extracellular domain is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said polypeptide agent inhibits the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide ~~sequence~~ having at least 90% sequence identity ~~identical~~ to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4,~~ such that NFkB activity in said cell is modulated.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~TRADEα polypeptide sequence~~ is a soluble form of a TRADEα polypeptide ~~comprising a mature TRADE polypeptide extracellular domain~~.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 58, wherein the soluble form of the TRADEα polypeptide sequence is a TRADEα-Fc fusion protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADEα-Fc fusion protein includes the hinge $-C_H2$-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADEα-Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ1, γ2, γ3, ε and α.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADEα polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide comprising a ~~TRADEα polypeptide~~ sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4~~.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADEα polypeptide comprising ~~the amino acid sequence of~~ SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADEβ polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4~~.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide agent results in reduction of NFkB activity.